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# CITRUS

## FEBRUARY FORECAST

### MATURITY TEST RESULTS AND FRUIT SIZE

## FLORIDA AGRICULTURE



February 11, 2000

### ALL ORANGES REMAIN AT 219 MILLION BOXES

The forecast of all round oranges, released today by the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, is held at 219 million boxes. If realized, this will be the third largest crop on record and 18 percent higher than last season. The early-midseason and Valencia crop forecasts are unchanged. In the past 10 non-freeze seasons, the February forecast has differed from final utilization by an average of 2.3 percent, with seven seasons above and three seasons below the recorded utilization.

The Row Count survey conducted January 25-26, 2000 recorded the lowest percent of rows harvested in the current ten year series, another indication that maturity is lagging this season.

Rainfall totals have been below average this winter and irrigation is being used to maintain good tree and fruit condition. Recent cold fronts caused temperatures to drop into the 20s for short durations and any damage was insignificant.

### EARLY-MIDSEASONS 127.0 MILLION BOXES

The forecast of the early and midseason orange varieties is unchanged at 127.0 million boxes. Objective surveys show fruit size has continued slightly above

Citrus production, February 1, 2000  
 forecasts by varieties and states, with comparisons

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	1997-98	1998-99	Jan 11, 2000	Feb 11, 2000
Early, Midseason, and Navel Oranges:	- - - 1,000 boxes - - -			
<b>FLORIDA</b>	<b>140,000</b>	<b>112,000</b>	<b>127,000</b>	<b>127,000</b>
California	44,000	21,000	40,000	40,000
Texas	1,350	1,250	1,300	1,300
Arizona	350	550	600	600
Total Above Varieties	185,700	134,800	168,900	168,900
Valencias:				
<b>FLORIDA</b>	<b>104,000</b>	<b>73,700</b>	<b>92,000</b>	<b>92,000</b>
California	25,000	17,000	27,000	27,000
Texas	175	180	300	300
Arizona	650	600	450	450
Total Valencias	129,825	91,480	119,750	119,750
All Oranges:				
<b>FLORIDA</b>	<b>244,000</b>	<b>185,700</b>	<b>219,000</b>	<b>219,000</b>
California	69,000	38,000	67,000	67,000
Texas	1,525	1,430	1,600	1,600
Arizona	1,000	1,150	1,050	1,050
Total All Oranges	315,525	226,280	288,650	288,650

### FORECAST DATES 1999-00 SEASON

March 10, 2000  
 April 11, 2000  
 May 12, 2000  
 June 9, 2000  
 July 12, 2000

average and loss from droppage remained well below the average of the past nine seasons. The Row Count survey, which has shown the percentage of harvested rows to be lower than in the nine previous seasons, now indicates harvested rows near 60 percent. The rate of harvest has increased as estimated weekly utilization averaged over eight million boxes in recent weeks.

The Navel portion of the early-midseason crop is continued at 5.6 million boxes. Estimated certifications through January 30 total over 4.0 million boxes. The Row Count survey shows a sufficient number of rows remaining for harvest to support the current forecast.

### VALENCIAS 92.0 MILLION BOXES

The forecast of Valencia oranges remains at 92.0 million boxes. This forecast, 12 percent below the record of 104.0 million boxes in 1997-98, would equal the second largest crop recorded in 1996-97, and would be 25 percent above last season's final utilization.

Field measurements indicate that the fruit is above average in size and growth continues at a rate slightly above average. Fruit loss from droppage remains well below average and is lower than any of the previous nine seasons.

### FCOJ YIELD PROJECTIONS DOWN

The all orange FCOJ yield projection is lowered to 1.54 from 1.57 gallons per box of 42.0 degree Brix concentrate, below the level of the past three seasons. Also, projections for the components were decreased with the early and midseason portion at 1.48, down from 1.50, and the late (Valencia) portion at 1.64, down from 1.68 gallons per box last month. Last season, the Florida Citrus Processors Association reported the record high yields of 1.58414 for early-midseason fruit, 1.74806 for the late maturing fruit, and 1.63381 for all oranges.

## SEEDLESS GRAPEFRUIT CONTINUED

The total seedless grapefruit forecast is maintained at 45.5 million boxes. This forecast was established in November 1999, reflecting estimated losses from Hurricane Irene. The forecast is 1.0 million boxes less than recorded last season and the smallest indication since 41.2 million boxes utilized in the 1991-92 season. Both varietal forecasts are maintained. White seedless is 18.5 million boxes and the colored varieties total 27.0 million boxes. Last season the final recorded utilization for whites was 17.8 million boxes and colored at 28.7 million boxes.

The January survey on fruit size indicated an average for both white and colored slightly below the past nine season mean. The adjusted fruit loss survey showed white droppage at the nine season mean and colored slightly above. The above average amount of "non-regular" blooms this season may be affecting both the average size and drop at this point in the season. The route survey (Row Count) conducted on January 25-26, 2000, indicated a larger crop than the objective count surveys. However, with only 21 percent of the rows harvested, it is not considered to be a reliable indicator. The evaluation of the objective count surveys and the low harvest level did not indicate a change at this time.

Estimated utilization through January 30, 2000, was 4.1 million boxes of white seedless, the same as the past two seasons. The colored varieties at 10.7 million boxes are lagging well behind the past two seasons.

Citrus production, February 1, 2000  
forecasts by varieties and states, with comparisons

Crop and State	Production		Forecast	
	1997-98 <sup>1/</sup>	1998-99	Jan 11, 2000	Feb 11, 2000
--- 1,000 boxes ---				
Grapefruit:				
<b>FLORIDA-All</b>	<b>49,550</b>	<b>47,050</b>	<b>46,000</b>	<b>46,000</b>
<b>Seedless</b>	<b>48,900</b>	<b>46,500</b>	<b>45,500</b>	<b>45,500</b>
<b>White</b>	<b>18,300</b>	<b>17,800</b>	<b>18,500</b>	<b>18,500</b>
<b>Colored</b>	<b>30,600</b>	<b>28,700</b>	<b>27,000</b>	<b>27,000</b>
<b>Seedy (Other)</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>500</b>
Texas	4,800	6,100	5,500	5,500
Arizona	800	750	800	800
California	8,000	7,500	8,000	8,000
<b>Total Grapefruit</b>	<b>63,150</b>	<b>61,400</b>	<b>60,300</b>	<b>60,300</b>
Lemons:				
California	21,000	16,200	21,000	21,000
Arizona	2,600	3,450	3,100	3,100
<b>Total Lemons</b>	<b>23,600</b>	<b>19,650</b>	<b>24,100</b>	<b>24,100</b>
<b>Limes: Florida</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>600</b>
<b>Temples: Florida</b>	<b>2,250</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>2,100</b>	<b>2,100</b>
<b>Tangelos: Florida</b>	<b>2,850</b>	<b>2,550</b>	<b>2,800</b>	<b>2,600</b>
<b>K-Early: Florida</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>100</b>
Tangerines:				
<b>FLORIDA-All</b>	<b>5,200</b>	<b>4,950</b>	<b>6,600</b>	<b>6,600</b>
<b>Early <sup>2/</sup></b>	<b>3,200</b>	<b>3,050</b>	<b>4,200</b>	<b>4,200</b>
<b>Honey</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>1,900</b>	<b>2,400</b>	<b>2,400</b>
California <sup>3/</sup>	2,400	1,500	2,300	2,300
Arizona <sup>3/</sup>	600	950	1,100	1,100
<b>Total Tangerines</b>	<b>8,200</b>	<b>7,400</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>

<sup>1/</sup> Excludes 6 million boxes of economic abandonment in FL: 5 million white seedless and 1 million colored. <sup>2/</sup> Robinson, Fallglo, Sunburst, and Dancy.

<sup>3/</sup> Includes tangelos.

## SEEDY GRAPEFRUIT

The seedy (Duncan) grapefruit forecast is continued at 500,000 boxes. As of late January, fruit size was slightly above the nine season mean and loss from droppage several percent below. However, this variety is only recorded as processed use and is dependent on load tickets at the plant. Only 41,000 boxes were estimated to have been processed as of January 30, as compared with 107,000 boxes last season to that date. Only 550,000 boxes were finally recorded last season. Final recording of this crop has been less than 1.0 million boxes for the past three seasons.

### ALL TANGERINES CONTINUED AT 6.6 MILLION BOXES

The total tangerine forecast is held at 6.6 million boxes. There is no change in either the early portion at 4.2 million boxes or the late portion (**Honey**) at 2.4 million boxes.

The early tangerines, **Robinson** and **Fallglo**, are complete. Harvest of **Sunburst** and **Dancy** is rapidly declining. The cooler weather has aided in holding quality.

The Honey tangerine harvest is underway with over 300,000 boxes estimated use through January 30, 2000. This crop has more "off bloom" than normal, so more spot picking has occurred. The loss from droppage has been at the lowest level of the series. However, fruit size is well below the mean. The route survey (Row Count) indicated about 16 percent harvest of the regular bloom.

### TEMPLES STAY AT 2.1 MILLION BOXES

The Temple forecast is maintained at 2.1 million boxes. Less than 300,000 boxes had been recorded through January 30. The crop has lagged in maturity and as usual has more later blooms than most citrus. Fruit sizes average near the smallest in the series. However, the droppage has been minimal, near the lowest of the series.

### TANGELOS REDUCED 200,000 BOXES

The tangelo forecast is reduced to 2.6 million boxes based on the Row Count Survey the end of January. Of the estimated use of about 1.5 million boxes approximately 65 percent of the rows had been harvested. Estimated use as of February 1 was 16 percent below last season, when only 2.550 million boxes were recorded.

### K-EARLY CITRUS INCREASED

The K-Early Citrus Fruit is now 100,000 boxes. Processed use has continued to trickle in at a few thousand boxes in recent weeks. The final estimate is less than recorded previous to 1997-98 but more than the past two seasons.

Unadjusted Maturity Tests: Average of regular bloom fruit from sample  
groves, 1998-99 and 1999-00 seasons

Fruit type (No. groves) test date	Acid		Solids (Brix)		Ratio		Unfinished juice per box		Solids per box	
	1998-99	1999-00	1998-99	1999-00	1998-99	1999-00	1998-99	1999-00	1998-99	1999-00
	Percent		Percent				Pounds		Pounds	
Juice and solids per box are unadjusted and not comparable to plant test results.										
ORANGES:										
Early (35-49)										
Sep 1	1.77	1.81	9.52	9.30	5.49	5.25	41.89	40.67	3.98	3.78
Oct 1	1.18	1.26	9.38	9.28	8.06	7.54	47.66	45.91	4.46	4.25
Nov 1	0.94	0.99	10.09	9.69	10.92	9.99	50.15	49.96	5.06	4.84
Dec 1	0.76	0.83	11.18	10.80	14.93	13.13	50.89	50.59	5.69	5.46
Jan 1	0.69	0.78	11.72	11.44	17.24	14.84	51.52	49.86	6.04	5.70
Feb 1	0.67	0.76	12.71	12.44	19.11	16.61	51.35	48.61	6.54	6.05
Mid (25-36)										
Sep 1	1.94	2.01	9.34	9.13	4.87	4.60	42.06	39.19	3.93	3.58
Oct 1	1.30	1.41	9.09	9.11	7.10	6.54	48.25	46.74	4.39	4.26
Nov 1	1.06	1.11	9.88	9.54	9.38	8.74	52.11	51.25	5.14	4.89
Dec 1	0.85	0.93	11.06	10.93	13.15	11.92	54.86	52.07	6.07	5.69
Jan 1	0.79	0.89	12.24	12.01	15.64	13.62	52.43	51.69	6.41	6.20
Feb 1	0.75	0.84	12.77	12.80	17.28	15.44	53.33	50.60	6.82	6.48
Late (150-150)										
Sep 1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Oct 1	2.44	2.51	8.65	8.55	3.60	3.45	45.68	43.36	3.95	3.71
Nov 1	2.02	2.06	8.98	8.72	4.51	4.30	50.66	47.53	4.55	4.15
Dec 1	1.58	1.70	9.91	9.81	6.34	5.85	53.31	51.38	5.28	5.04
Jan 1	1.33	1.47	10.79	10.81	8.18	7.43	54.20	52.51	5.85	5.68
Feb 1	1.24	1.34	11.91	11.68	9.69	8.83	55.24	52.67	6.58	6.15

NOTICE: All samples were run through an FMC 091 machine using mechanical pressure only. This machine utilizes a .040 short strainer and standard 5/8-inch orifice tube. The beam settings are also identical to past tests and no restrictors are used.

Maturity test averages by areas, February 1, 2000

Fruit type	Groves sampled	Acid	Solids (Brix)	Ratio	Unfinished juice per box	Solids per box
	Number	Percent	Percent		Pounds	Pounds
ORANGES:						
Early						
Indian River Dist.	4	0.74	12.86	17.43	49.80	6.39
Other Areas	45	0.76	12.40	16.54	48.50	6.02
Midseason						
Indian River Dist.	9	0.83	13.18	15.99	51.46	6.78
Other Areas	27	0.84	12.67	15.26	50.31	6.38
Late						
Indian River Dist.	25	1.37	12.23	9.04	51.96	6.35
Other Areas	125	1.33	11.57	8.79	52.81	6.11

## FRUIT SIZE COMPARISONS BY TYPES TO PREVIOUS SEASONS

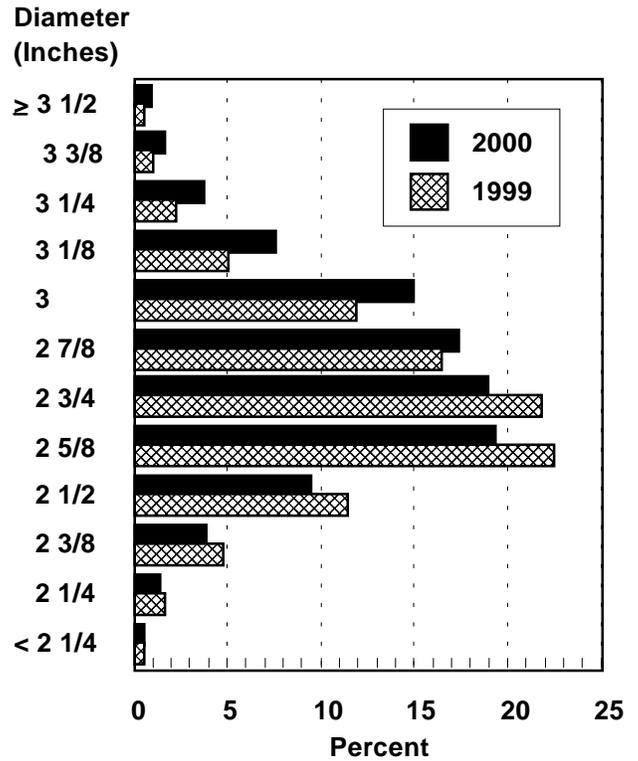
Size frequency distributions from the January size survey are shown in the table below. The distributions are by percent of fruit falling within the size range of each 4/5-bushel container. Fruit sizes were measured on trees in sample groves during the period January 3 through 24, 2000. Comparable sizes for 1998 and 1999 are also shown. These measurements are of fruit from spring bloom and exclude summer bloom in all seasons.

### FLORIDA CITRUS: Size frequency distributions from January measurements

Type of fruit and size in 4/5-bushel containers	1998	1999	2000
--- Percent ---			
<b>Valencia oranges:</b>			
64 and larger	8.4	5.4	9.4
80	24.5	23.7	27.6
100	40.5	40.3	37.2
125	20.6	23.6	20.0
163 and smaller	6.0	7.0	5.8
<b>White seedless grapefruit:</b>			
32 and larger	28.5	18.7	20.9
36	25.6	23.2	21.7
40	17.6	21.6	20.6
48	13.2	16.9	16.4
56	6.8	8.3	7.9
63 and smaller	8.3	11.3	12.5
<b>Colored seedless grapefruit:</b>			
32 and larger	18.2	10.0	9.8
36	23.4	18.9	18.6
40	21.7	20.8	22.7
48	19.1	21.3	20.4
56	8.4	11.5	13.4
63 and smaller	9.2	17.5	15.1
<b>Temples:</b>			
80 and larger	42.5	35.3	38.4
100	36.1	43.2	33.9
120	16.2	16.3	21.0
156 and smaller	5.2	5.2	6.7
<b>Honey tangerines:</b>			
150 and larger	91.5	96.0	91.1
176	5.2	2.5	5.0
210	1.9	1.3	2.6
246	1.1	0.2	0.6
294 and smaller	0.3	0.0	0.7

The charts to the right compare the relationship of the January 2000 Valencia orange and white seedless grapefruit fruit size measurements with those taken in January 1999. The diameter measurements shown are the minimum values of each eighth inch range except for the smallest value.

**CHART 1:** Valencia orange size frequency by diameter from January measurements.



**CHART 2:** White seedless grapefruit size frequency by diameter from January measurements.

